

breast cancer and to commit to taking steps to protect their health or to contribute in some way to creating and achieving a world without breast cancer.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED EMPLOYEES OF THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the dedicated employees of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) in safeguarding the citizens of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in Maryland.

In the early morning hours of July 1, 2010, a WSSC fiber optics monitoring system notified key WSSC personnel of impending danger involving a 96" water main located near Tuckerman Lane in Montgomery County, Maryland. This highly pressurized water main is one of the main distribution conduits serving both Counties, but is of particular importance to the citizens of Prince George's County. WSSC mobilized immediately coordinating with Maryland state and county officials to isolate the problem, dewater the main, replace the damaged section, and restore water service. This all occurred without a loss of water pressure in the system that could have impacted adversely critical services like hospitals and firefighting capabilities. WSSC instituted and enforced mandatory water restrictions over the holiday weekend to ensure adequate pressure was maintained for public health and safety.

WSSC is to be commended for their leadership and efforts throughout this incident. As Paul Hajek, Acting Director of Operations for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) wrote to WSSC's General Manager, "I found WSSC to be highly professional, responsive and cautiously deliberate in how they handled the entire incident. From a State perspective, it was refreshing to work with a company that at every turn 'had it under control'. Your company's actions turned what was a probable 'emergency incident' into an 'event'."

WSSC Commissioners and General Manager Jerry N. Johnson honored WSSC employees for their efforts in this incident during the July 21, 2010 Commission meeting. In a communication from the General Manager to the employees honored, Mr. Johnson wrote:

"As you know, I believe that our employees are our most valuable asset. The members of the WSSC team demonstrate their commitment every day whether they are responding to a customer inquiry in the Call Center, inspecting a contractor's repair of a sewer lateral, turning valves to isolate a water main break or repairing a pump in the machine shop. I am proud to be a member of such a dedicated and capable workforce that so fully understands the critical nature of our work and how each of us plays an important role in fulfilling our obligation to provide high quality reliable services to our customers.

"Due, in part, to your hard work, WSSC averted a potentially catastrophic break in the

96-inch main. We know from past experience the destructive power of such a break. There is no doubt a sudden break at Tuckerman Lane and Gainsborough Road would have been devastating.

"We appreciate your personal sacrifices, including the physical demands of working long hours in near-record breaking heat, and the time that could have been spent with loved ones celebrating our Nation's Independence Day holiday. Your professionalism and work ethic personify the work ethic of the entire WSSC team. We are so very proud of our employees and the contractors who represented the Commission in all phases of the repair operation.

"On behalf of our customers and staff, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your excellent implementation of WSSC's customer service goals and expectations. You selflessly carried out our mission to provide safe and reliable water, life's most precious resource, in an ethically and financially responsible manner. We salute you for a job well done!"

One noteworthy individual is WSSC Customer Care West Group Leader, Hak Kwon. Nicknamed by many during and after this event as "The General," Mr. Kwon lead the WSSC Team working tirelessly and professionally to resolve the problem as quickly and as safely as possible.

In crisis situations such as this early July 2010 incident, it is comforting to know that the employees of the WSSC can rise to the occasion, make the difficult decisions, and safeguard our citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join General Manager Jerry Johnson and me in commending the WSSC and its employees on a job well done.

PROVIDING HONORARY TITLE FOR ARMY RESERVISTS

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3787, which I joined my colleague the gentleman from Minnesota in introducing. Our military increasingly depends on the National Guard and Reserve to keep our country safe. Men and women who served our country faithfully for decades deserve full recognition as veterans, even if they were never deployed. The legislation would extend full veteran status under federal law to retired members of the Guard and Reserve. Current law does not consider Guard and Reserve members to be veterans unless they were deployed for more than 30 days. The policy excludes many soldiers in the Guard and Reserve who, while never deployed for long periods of time, carried out critical support roles during times of war and peace, engaged in frequent and often dangerous training exercises, and stood ready to risk their lives to protect our nation during military careers that spanned decades. This legislation recognizes the service and sacrifice of National Guard and Reserve retirees and grants them the full honor of being called veterans that they have earned. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which is a

matter of honor and fairness to our citizen soldiers.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. JUDY TUCKER, DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES FOR U. S. REP. BOBBY L. RUSH, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER 24 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, we live in an age where the average length of time that a typical American worker spends on a job is from three to five years. That's why, as this month comes to a close, it is all the more remarkable that one of my most respected employees, Mrs. Judy Tucker, has served me with distinction, honor and humility for 24 years—only one year shy of a quarter century. Her commitment to service and to the people of the 1st Congressional District of Illinois is truly remarkable in this day and age. And for that, I thank her for her service.

But there's so much more to Judy Tucker's story.

When the history of Chicago's African American political community is written, Judy Tucker's name will be an important part of that vast network of tireless, determined men and women who served with distinction in those all important "trenches"—you know, the nose-to-the grind, inner workings of government that mean the world to the typical voter, constituent and his or her family. Judy Tucker is the only employee to have served me, consistently, since I was first elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1992. That was 20 years ago. This tribute recognizes her for 24 years of service because, prior to my election to Congress, Judy served me capably and effectively, for four years, as my personal secretary in my Second Ward Aldermanic Office.

Judy's background in public service also includes playing key administrative leadership roles for my friend, Cook County Commissioner Jerry Butler, and, prior to that, working for several years for the iconic African American Member of Congress, Ralph Metcalfe, who also represented the people of the 1st Congressional District. It is my pleasure to note that through all of Judy's professional life she has prided herself on her service to the men and women of the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois and, for the past 20 years, the people of the 1st Congressional District that I'm so proud to serve.

As Director of Constituent Services, Judy managed those all important details of what it means to provide assistance to those constituents who need help. No matter the request, if it was within our power to assist a constituent, Judy Tucker made sure that their resource or information needs were addressed quickly, accurately and in a professional manner. There was never a request too large or too small for Judy to handle. In many ways, Judy's job is one of, if not the most important job that I have on staff. That's because her work hits home where it matters most—in the daily lives of the constituents that my staff and I are here to serve. Judy never forgot about the needs of my constituents and she worked tirelessly to